

Manitoba,

Canada.

RUSSELL COUNTY,

ILLUSTRATED.

HISTORY OF ITS EARLY SETTLEMENT,

Soil,
Timber,
Water, Etc.

CONVENIENCE TO RAILWAYS.

Homesteads
open for Settlement
or for Sale.

THE BANNER COUNTY OF THE PROVINCE.

THE CANADA SIFTINGS' PRINT, RUSSELL, MANITOBA.



PROVINCE OF MANITOBA

MANITOBA

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RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

What We've Got We'll Hold.

And What is That?

It's our **REPUTATION** for **HONESTY** and
ENTERPRISE

in supplying the people of this part of the world with what they want from the following lines of merchandise.

Dry Goods.

A large variety of seasonable, Staple and Fancy Goods.
We make every line a Specialty.

Furs.

A great variety for Men, Women and Children, in Coats, Hats, Muffs, Capes, Collars, Mitts Etc.

Boots and Shoes.

Our stock is made up with goods from the Best Manufacturers in Canada.
See our Felt Boots for Winter.

Rubbers

and **OVERSHOES**. The Maple Leaf Brand is equaled by few and surpassed by none.
Other brands also kept.

Clothing.

W. R. Johnstone Co., Toronto and H. Shorey & Co., Montreal, we believe make the best Clothing in Canada. We sell their goods!

Groceries.

Keeping our Stock Fresh, and the Quality the Best; and Prices Right, we are sure to satisfy everyone.

Crockery & Glassware.

as in all other departments, variety and excellence will meet you here and by having our stock constantly replenished, we are sure we can serve you best.

Working with us are the 3 greatest salesmen known, Messrs.
GOOD QUALITY, LOW PRICE and SQUARE TREATMENT.

TRY OUR CEYLON TEAS, Best Value in this Country.

THOMAS HILL,
General Merchant. **Russell, Manitoba.**

FURNITURE.

My stock of Furniture is now complete and I would draw attention to the following lines in which I have a specially good assortment:—

**Bedroom Suites,
Sideboards,
Extension Tables,
Iron Bedsteads,
Combination Desk and Book Case.**

I keep in stock everything requisite to furnish, from a KITCHEN TABLE to a DRAWING ROOM SUITE, and my prices are such that you can save money by buying at home, with the additional advantage of seeing the goods before you purchase. All I ask is an inspection of my stock and prices.

Lumber. A full stock of Lumber, Doors, Windows and Building Material generally, always on hand.

JOHN J. MOON, RUSSELL.

BOOK STORE RUSSELL.

Complete stock of School Books, Stationery, Fancy Goods, Wall Paper, Music and Musical Instruments, always on hand.

JOHN GIBB,
PROPRIETOR.

CIRCULATING LIBRARY.

Patronize HOME INDUSTRY.

Having purchased the Harness Business lately carried on by W. T. Potts, and having added largely to the Stock, am now prepared to furnish HARNESS of all kinds, and everything usually kept in a first class shop,

At Prices Cheaper than ever.
Call and See my Stock before Buying.

F. MATHESON, Russell.

McCormick's

Known all over the world as the Standard Binders and Mowers. That's why I handle them. I also have a full stock of Lumber and Building Material on hand and will either sell you the material or give you an estimate and erect your buildings.

McPherson,

Insurance

FARMS FOR SALE.

I have a large number of improved farms, and some wild lands for sale on easy terms.

Lists of Government lands for settlers always on file at my office.

A. B. CALLEN

Real Estate and Insurance Agent
Russell, Manitoba

You can get nearly everything you may require from

Gerrard Shellmouth.

GENERAL STORE
Reasonable Prices.

STORES

211 of Millwood of Churchbridge.

Both well stocked with seasonable goods.

When you come to this part of the country, we want your trade, and will make it an object to hold it if you'll only give us a chance.

Chrisie Bailey & Co.

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED

Toovey & Andrews,
Bakers and Confectioners,
RUSSELL.

Candies, Fruits, Soft Drinks,
Oysters, Cakes, Biscuits,
Nuts, Pipes.

Havana Cigars a Specialty.

Dining Room in Connection.

George R. Case,

Dealer in

ORGANS, PIANOS, SEWING MACHINES,
NEEDLES AND OILS.

Stock taken in Exchange.

Repairing a Specialty.

Licensed Auctioneer.

Stock Bought and Sold.

Sales promptly attended to
on Favorable Terms.

Life and Fire Insurance Agent.

Good Farms, well located, for sale on
easy terms, at low prices.

Binscarth, - Man.

Millwood Roller Mills.

Modern Machinery.
Competent Workmen.

Turning out all Standard Brands of Flour.

Custom Gristing.

Grinding for Export.

Full stock of Flour, Bran, Shorts, Etc., on hand.

WRITE FOR QUOTATIONS TO

H. B. Mitchell,

MILLWOOD, MAN.

PROPRIETOR.

County of Russell.

THE County of Russell, which is situated in the Northwestern part of the Province, comprises the Municipalities of Rossburn, Ellice, Russell, Silver Creek, Boulton, and Shell River.

It has been called "The Banner County" on account of its having been awarded a banner, which the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition offered in 1893 to be competed for as a sweepstake to the County securing the greatest number of prizes.

The general aspect of the county is rolling prairie, well supplied throughout with bluffs of trees, affording almost every settler shelter for buildings. The country is watered by many fine streams most of which course through valleys having banks ranging from 100 to 300 feet in height, presenting much picturesque scenery. The principal rivers are, the Assiniboine, Shell and Bird Tail, which with Silver Creek, Boggy Creek and many smaller streams provide a natural drainage for the whole district, and, a water supply for stock. With few exceptions, well water can be obtained in any part of the county at a reasonable depth.

The soil is mostly a deep rich clay loam, which does not seem to suffer much from impoverishment, even after fifteen years cropping, notwithstanding that almost no manuring or other fertilizing has been done.

Fuel, and in many cases building timber, is within easy reach of settlers, and a vast forest of timber, suitable for lumber, extends over the northern part of the county. From 2 to 3 million feet is taken out each year and floated down the Assiniboine.

The district is particularly adapted for mixed farming. In the early years of settlement, more attention was given to grain growing, but later on the farmers saw the advantage of combining stock raising and dairying with wheat culture, and to-day no portion of the Province can claim a better reputation for stock or dairy products, which is evinced by the number of awards annually carried off at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition and other Provincial Fairs.

Owing to the abundance of rich grazing land, several breeders of finest pure bred stock located in the county and have furnished the settlers with young stock, which accounts for the superiority of the cattle.

The following statistics compiled from official railway returns

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

show the Municipality of Russell for a period of five years.

		1893.	1894.	1895.	1896.	1897.
Wheat	Bush.	59,586.	88,503.	35,827.	109,065.	147,139.
Oats	"	27,114.	50,057.	88,679.	154,995.	80,526.
Barley,	"	1,650.	625.		934.	837.
Cattle,	No.	827.	1,730.	2,006.	2,041.	2,211.
Hogs,	"	144.	159.	352.	329.	809.
Sheep,	"	131.	407.	282.	180.	216.
Butter,	lbs.	51,300.	61,860.	63,780.	71,280.	94,900.
Eggs and Poultry	"	20,470.	31,040.	25,310.	38,950.	37,050.
Dressed Meats,	"	50,480.	26,640.	68,370.	19,110.	10,660.

The Manitoba & North Western Railway runs through the southerly part of the county, which with a branch line from Bin-scarth northward to Russell afford shipping facilities.

Markets are as good here as at most Provincial points, taking freight rates into consideration.

Post offices, churches, schools, mills and creameries are within reasonably easy access from any part of the county.

The different villages are steadily growing without booming and from their appearance of solidity as well as enterprise, a stranger is impressed with the fact the surrounding country must be above the average. A trip over naturally good roads improved by grading and substantial bridges, through settlements of well tilled homesteads, herds of choice cattle, and contented communities convinces one of the prosperity of the district and of its further possibilities.

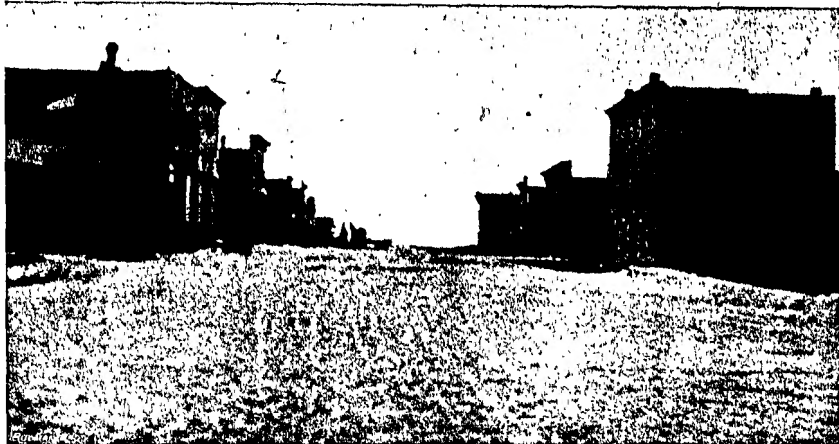
Dr. Barnardo's Industrial Farm comprises about 8,000 acres. Mr. Struthers, the manager, with an efficient staff, oversee extensive mixed farming and dairying interests, and annually, a large number of boys are trained and fitted for service, and seem to be in great demand in all parts of Manitoba and the Territories.

A few homesteads can still be obtained in the outlying parts of the district and land can be purchased from the M. & N. W. Railway Co., the Scottish Ontario & Manitoba Land Co., the Hudson Bay Co. and others, at from \$3.00 to \$7.00 an acre, on easy terms of payment.

Many items of general interest are referred to at greater length later on.

Russell Village and District.

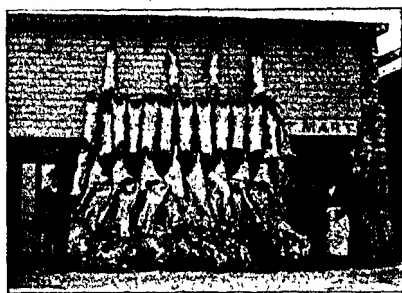
THE village of Russell, situated at the terminus of the Shell River Branch of the M. & N. W. Ry., is the county seat of



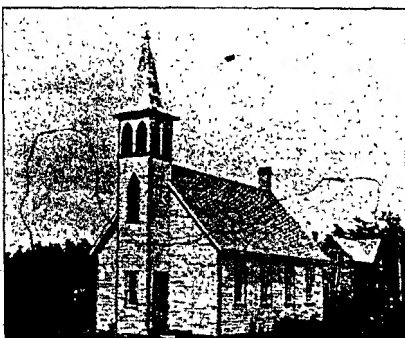
MAIN STREET, RUSSELL.



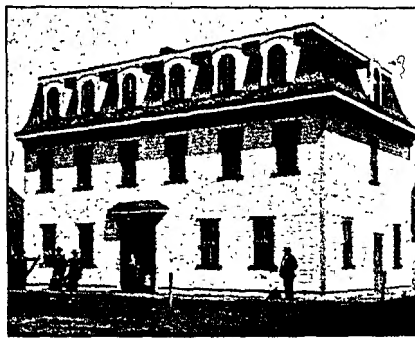
T. Hill's Store, Russell.



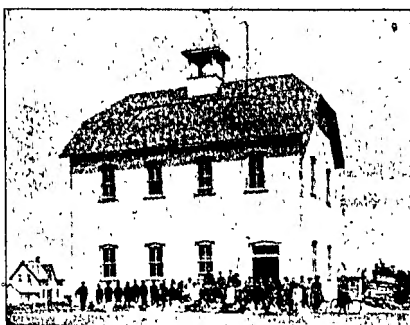
A. McDonagh's Meat Market, Russell.



Presbyterian Church, Russell.



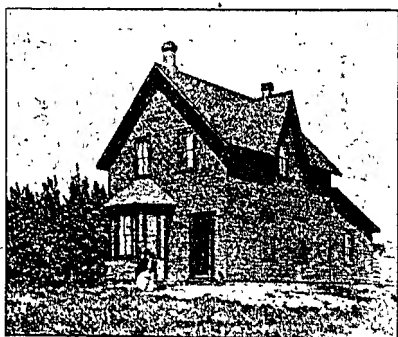
Queen's Hotel, Russell.



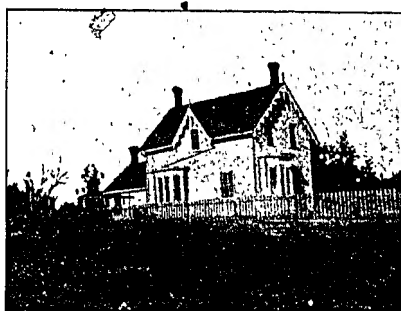
Russell School.



Residence of A. B. Oallin, Russell.



Residence of J. Gilmour, near Russell.



Residence of J. D. Kippan, Russell.



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF RUSSELL.

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

south and east the soil is heavier and better adapted to mixed farming, and annually gives a good account of itself at the agricultural fairs. The whole district is beautifully studded with green bluffs, making excellent shelter as well as adding materially to the appearance of the country and assisting in drawing and retaining the moisture so necessary to vegetation. Good water is plentiful everywhere at from 12 to 25 feet.

Many of the new settlers, after a few years of the hardships and disappointments of pioneer life, the want of railway facilities, and the lack of home comforts generally, became discouraged and left. But of those who had the perseverance to fight the battle out, nearly all have been successful; and many who arrived here in the early eighties, almost penniless, have to-day good comfortable homes and well equipped farms, and are rated at from \$5,000 to \$15,000 with no incumbrances.

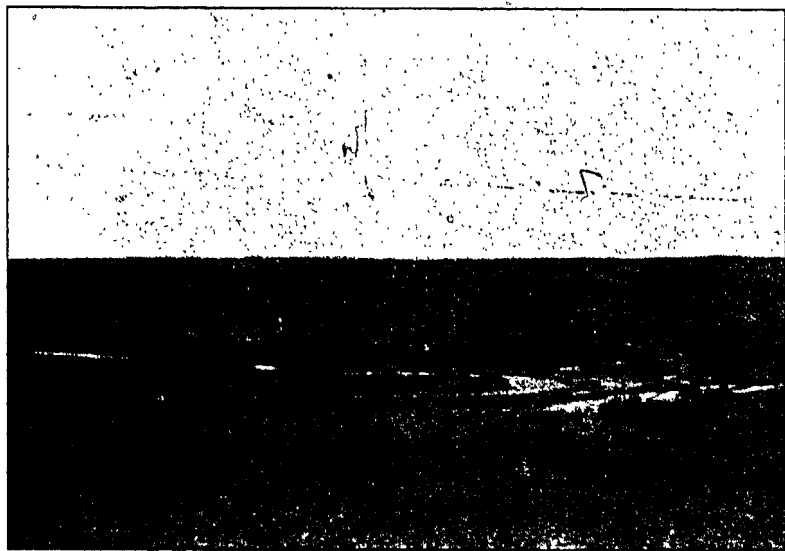
Among the first to settle in the district was Major C. A. Boulton, who located the townsite of Russell and who owns much valuable property in the vicinity, and now holds a seat in the Senate of Canada; and among those who from small beginnings have gained a competency by farming may be mentioned John Gilmour, Samuel Rea and Y. J. Attwood, whose statements appear below, George Cartwright, a breeder of heavy horses who has his stable walls decorated with prize tickets and diplomas won at the provincial exhibitions, James Rea, John Rea, Thos. Jackson, M. Simms, W. Cusitar, W. Setter, A. McLennan and many others which space will not permit to mention.

The free homesteads in the district are pretty well taken up, but as the district has never been boomed or any effort made to push settlement, there is a large amount of first-class land still on the market which can be bought at from \$4.00 an acre up, and it will repay intending settlers to see for themselves what we have to offer, before selecting their future homes.

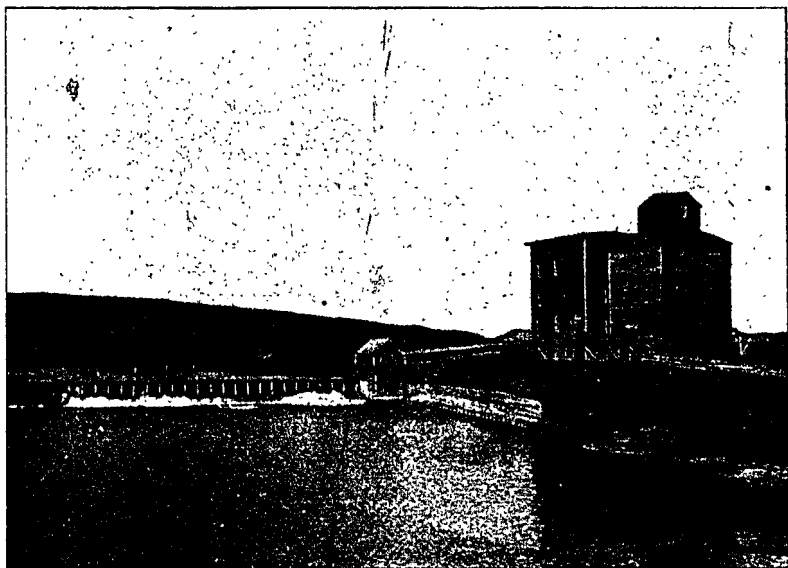
Mr. John Gilmour (Irish) came from St. Catherines, Ont., in 1880, with a capital to start with of \$700.00. He is worth \$9,375.00 and owns 480 acres of land, 250 under cultivation, has 7 horses and 45 cattle, frame stable and granary.

Mr. Y. J. Attwood (Canadian) came from the County of Middlesex, Ontario, in 1882, with a capital of \$900.00. He is worth to-day \$16,000.00 and has 1,120 acres of land, 500 being under cultivation. He has 20 head of horses, 250 cattle and 2 hogs.

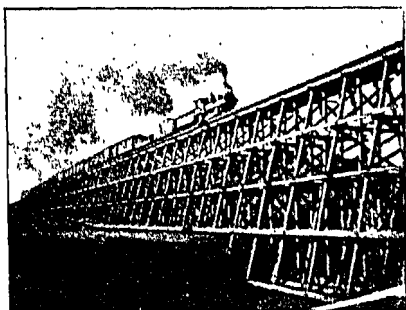
Mr. Samuel Rea (Irish Canadian) came from the County of Renfrew, Ontario, in 1880, with no capital. He has 480 acres of land, 300 under cultivation, 55 cattle, 10 horses, 12



MILLWOOD, FROM THE WEST.



MILLWOOD MILLS AND ELEVATOR.



M. & N. W. R'y Trestle, near Millwood



Residence of H. V. Bailey, Millwood.



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF SHELLMOUTH.



Residence of Geo. R. Case, Binscarth.



Christ Church, Russell.

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

sheep 2 pigs and 60 hens. His stock, land under cultivation and buildings would bring \$10,200.00.

Binscarth District.

IN the spring of 1882, the Scottish Ontario and Manitoba Land Company, having secured land from the Government, under terms of settlement, sent a representative out with some intending settlers. They reached this district in June and pitched their tents in the valley of Silver Creek where the railroad bridge now crosses it. Settlers however were ahead of the company and most of the homestead land was already entered for, though very little of it was as yet occupied. The company's agent Mr. George L. Smellie with the assistance of Mr. S. Bedford—now Superintendent of the Brandon Experimental farm—inspected the district and selected a location for a farm which the company intended to work as an object lesson. This farm known as "Binscarth Farm" was operated for some years, and thoroughbred cattle, as fine as any in the province, were raised on it, and have left their impress throughout the district. As a result, no part of the province exports as fine a lot of cattle as this northwestern district. The summer of 1882, saw homesteaders beginning to occupy their farms. Houses became visible here and there and some of the prairie sod was turned over; thereafter each year saw an increased area under cultivation and new settlers coming in. In 1885, the district was enlivened by the building of a railroad through it, and in this farmers saw a means of transporting their produce to distant markets and felt they had prosperity within their grasp.

Binscarth, the station and village of this district, is very prettily located near the banks of Silver Creek; it is nicely laid out and contains some handsome residences which are increasing in number year by year. Binscarth does an important business. During the year 1898, five hundred head of cattle were shipped from here, 40,000 bushels of grain were handled by the grain buyers and \$13,000 worth of implements was sold to the farmers of the district. These facts indicate prosperity and instances might be given to show what individual farmers have done. Robert Wilcox, a Canadian, from Ontario, homesteaded part of section 4 in March, 1882. He began with no capital whatever, and now has a farm worth \$2,500, free of incumbrance, well stocked with cattle, horses, pigs and fowls; and of not the least importance to him is the fact that he has enjoyed better health since coming to this country than for years before.

Joseph Allen, a Canadian, from Ontario, homesteaded part of section 10, on Silver Creek, in 1882. He also began with no capital, and now has a well worked farm with thirteen horses and fifty-four head of cattle, beside smaller stock. Others there are who came

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

from different parts of the world, some with no knowledge of farming, who have been successful. Some had the advantage of a little capital when they came here; one of whom, James Fletcher, located on section 2 and invested \$2,000. He has made and spent a large amount of money since then and has now twenty eight head of horses valued at \$3000.00, and fifty head of stock. He cultivates 264 acres and has implements worth \$600.00.

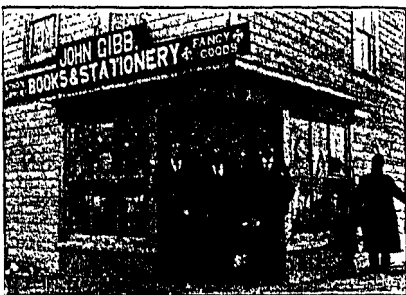
The soil in this district is rich and strong; some fields have been under cultivation for sixteen years, and have received no manure of any kind; indeed a very small proportion of the cultivated land has been manured as yet. There is still a considerable amount of wood in bluffs over the prairie and along Silver Creek, while the "big bush" begins some miles to the northeast. Water is usually got at a moderate depth; from 10 to 40 ft.

The topography of the district is pleasing and varied. Silver creek runs through it to the Assiniboine river, which bounds the district on the west; and both these valleys afford varied and beautiful and in some places even magnificent scenery. The prairie is rolling and well drained. A large amount of money has been spent in grading the hills, and the roads through the district are good.

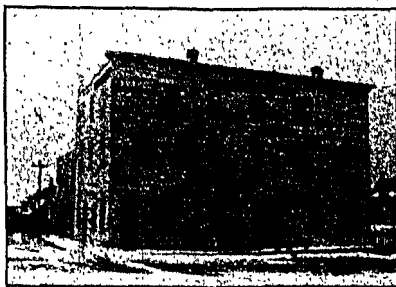
Many sales of land have been made in the last two years. Some resident farmers have bought more land, and new settlers are coming in. There is still however a good deal of land to be had at reasonable prices and on easy terms of payment and an examination of this district will well repay intending settlers.

Asessippi District.

ABOUT twelve miles north of Russell, is situated the village of Asessippi on the Shell River. The water power of this river has been utilized, and a Roller Process Flour Mill constructed in 1883 is now running, and there is also a Lumber and Shingle Mill all run by turbines. The district was first settled in 1882 and '83. This was during the boom in Manitoba, when numbers flocked to the country and took up homesteads, amongst whom many came who knew nothing of farming, and without capital to make a start. These settlers soon tired and vacated their farms, not owing to unfitness of the soil, but to their want of experience and want of capital. Amongst these first settlers however there were some who had the necessary means and experience, chiefly farmers from Ontario, and these are here at the present day, who have made themselves pleasant and prosperous homes. When homesteads are vacated there is a process of cancellation that has to be gone through before a new applicant can make entry, and new



John Gibb's Store, Russell.



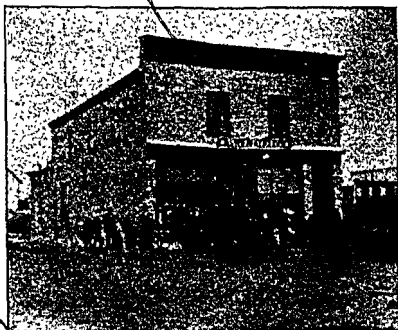
Grand Central Hotel, Russell.



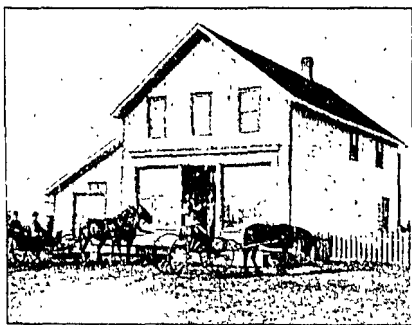
WRIGHT BLOCK, RUSSELL.
Dudley, Leese & Scarth, Mrs. Madill, Dr. Wright, Ledingham & Co.



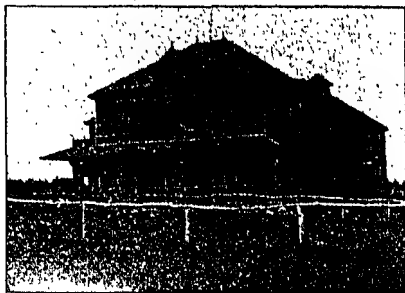
Toorey & Andrews. W. G. Brown, Russell



W. J. Dolge's Store, Russell.



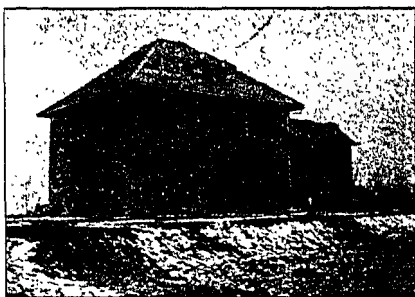
Christie, Bailey & Co.'s Store, Millwood.



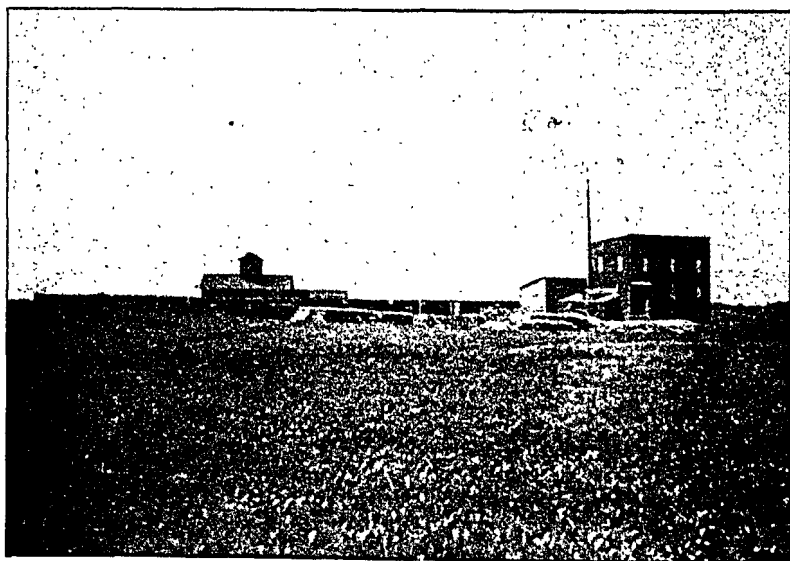
Barnardo Home.




Residence of R. J. Brooks, Turnbell.



Residence of Senator Boulton, Russell



BANNER COUNTY ROLLER MILL, RUSSELL



RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

comers, rather than have this delay, choose to go other ways, where they could get lands which had never been entered for homesteading, and of which they could at once take possession. The consequence is, that at the present time, there is much vacant land asking for some one to come and till it. It at once strikes the stranger as something extraordinary, that such a tract of country should still remain vacant, especially after seeing the few scattered but prosperous farms here and there throughout the district. The process of cancellation need not deter the new comer now, as it has been much simplified, and those who are seeking new homes can at a very little trouble take possession of these vacant lands, and proceed at once with the business of the farm. This Shell River district has always been noted for the excellence of its soil, free from alkali, with plenty of wood and water everywhere. The present settlers have utilized these vacant lands to a great extent by pasturing large herds of cattle, the grazing of which they get free, and hundreds of fat cattle pass over the bridge at Asessippi every fall on their way to the station at Russell, whence they are shipped to England, and this, and the Castleavery district, which joins this district on the N. W. go to swell the exports of cattle year by year. Mixed farming is chiefly followed by the settlers, and the sample of wheat and oats cannot be surpassed by any district in the Province.

Amongst the original pioneers, who are now successful farmers, I may mention a few: Mr. D. T. Wilson, who came from Ontario, settled near Asessippi, close to the banks of the Shell River in 1882. This gentleman is as well known for the excellence of his exhibits at the Provincial and other shows as any farmer in the Province; he takes numbers of prizes every year, one of which a very handsome silver trophy he won in Brandon last year, for his splendid exhibit of horses. These horses have all been bred on his farm and are the progeny of two young mares he brought with him from Ontario in 1882. Mr. Wilson is also a successful exhibitor of wheat at the Provincial and other shows. Mr. Thomas McLennan is another successful farmer who settled near the banks of the Shell in 1882. He devotes his attention chiefly to cattle, and every year numbers of fat cattle are sent by him to the English and other markets. Passing further north we come to the farm of Mr. R. J. Brooks, another Ontario farmer. His large and commodious house is conspicuous by the road side on the old Pelly trail. He settled in '82 and is now one of our successful agriculturists. He pursues mixed farming, selling a number of fat cattle every year. At Tumbell we find Messrs. Peter McDougall and James McDougall, who settled in '83, they also follow mixed farm-

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

ing, and ship a number of fat cattle every year. Still a little further north, we come to the home of Mr. John Edwards, whose genial face at once shows the successful and contented farmer. He came in 83, and his cattle, horses and grain crops cannot be beaten anywhere.

Mr. R. J. Brooks, came to this country from Ontario, in 1883, without any capital whatever, and to-day his stock, land and buildings are valued at \$7,000.00. He has 480 acres, 80 head of cattle, 18 horses, 22 sheep, 7 hogs and 100 fowl. He has one of the finest houses in the Tumbell district having spent some \$1,500.00 on it.

I have here given a few names of successful farmers who were amongst the first settlers, but I could also give a number of other names of those who have been equally successful, although settled more recently, such as Messrs. Edward Johnson and his sons, J. Richardson and his son, John Adams, Clement, the three Watsons, and others, but space will not allow. Mr. Gill was the pioneer of Asessippi village. He built the mills, and was afterwards joined by Mr. Richardson, who a few years ago retired and went to farming. Mr. J. F. Worley joined Mr. Gill and they still conduct the milling business. Besides the two mills already mentioned, there is a store in which is the postoffice, an hotel, blacksmith shop, school, church, etc. The Shell River is dammed at this place, and the mills are placed on each side of the river. The river is here spanned by a handsome iron bridge which was constructed at a cost of over \$5,000.

I may add, for the information of new-comers that numbers of free homesteads can still be obtained in this district; there are no objectionable reasons against its settlement, and owing to its excellence of soil, the advantage of wood and water, proximity to a railway, and other privileges, it must soon be all taken up. Suitable settlers would be welcomed, and in a short time there is no doubt they would find themselves possessed of as comfortable homes and as profitable farms as those who have preceded them.

Millwood District.

THIS village is situated in the valley of the Assiniboine River, about nine miles southwest from Russell, and the same distance northwest from Binscarth, on the line of the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway.

The land on the east side of the village is fairly well settled, and is well adapted to wheat growing, in fact there is some of the best wheat land in the municipality in this district, many of the

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

farmers are comfortably off and have first class buildings, farms in a good state of cultivation, and nice herds of cattle; the land on the west side of the village is only sparsely settled, a large amount of this land is held by speculators, who bought it at the time of the memorable boom of '82. The soil is lighter than on the east side, until one gets out about six miles, when it becomes heavy, and is well adapted to mixed farming, there are several homesteads open for entry in this district.

In the village are situated, a Roller Process Flour Mill, with a capacity of 150 bbls. per day; this mill is fitted up with the best of machinery and makes a first class grade of flour which compares very favorably with any on the market; in connection with the flour mill there is an Elevator with a capacity of 40,000 bushels, thus affording ample storage for grain; there is also a Grain Crusher, which has been a great convenience to farmers and a Saw Mill with a capacity of 15,000 ft. per day. The Mills and Elevator are all run by water power; obtained by building a dam across the Assiniboine River, we believe this is the only water power on this river, the dam is built of timbers securely braced and having plank on the face, it is about 150 in length, 50 feet of this dam is movable and opened in the spring of the year to allow the ice to pass through, the power is obtained from a sixty inch turbine wheel with a nine foot head of water; the pond formed by this dam affords magnificent boating, fishing and bathing. There are two good Hotels, Post Office, General Store, Telegraph Office, Blacksmith Shop, Butcher Shop, Livery Stables and Grain Warehouses, and number of private dwellings besides a first class school house and an Episcopal church. Although Millwood is on the main line of the M. & N. W. Ry., yet there is no station here, and this undoubtedly has been a great drawback to the village, but there is every reason to believe that in the near future this matter will be remedied.

Mention may be made of one or two of the prosperous farmers in this district.

Mr. W. P. Storey from Yorkshire, England, settled here in 1883. He commenced with a capital of \$1000.00, and now owns 480 acres of land—205 acres of which are under cultivation. He has 6 horses, 30 head of cattle, and all necessary farming implements, besides a comfortable house, commodious stables and a 24x30 frame granary built on a stone basement wall, the basement portion being used for stowing machinery. This property shows at a glance that Mr. Storey is not only a thorough farmer, but has an eye for order and neatness.

Mr. Robert Shaw from County Antrim, Ireland, came to Can-

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

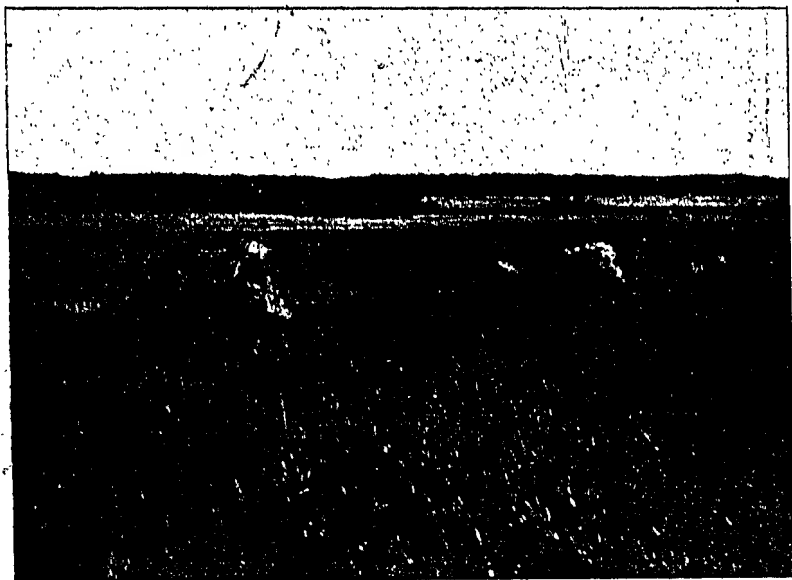
ada in 1874, sojourning for a time in Ontario. He came to Manitoba in 1882 and settled in this district, having no capital, and worked out for enough money to make his homestead entry, buy a yoke of oxen, a cow, waggon, sleighs, etc., and erect a log shanty. This log building has been replaced by a substantial frame dwelling. Mr. Shaw purchased, about 2 years ago, a $\frac{1}{4}$ section adjoining, and now has 480 acres of land, 100 acres being cultivated. He has 35 head of cattle, 9 horses and a complete outfit of farm implements. This gentleman is a firm believer in the country and states his belief that any energetic man, who is able and willing to work, can do equally as well as he has done.

Silver Creek District.

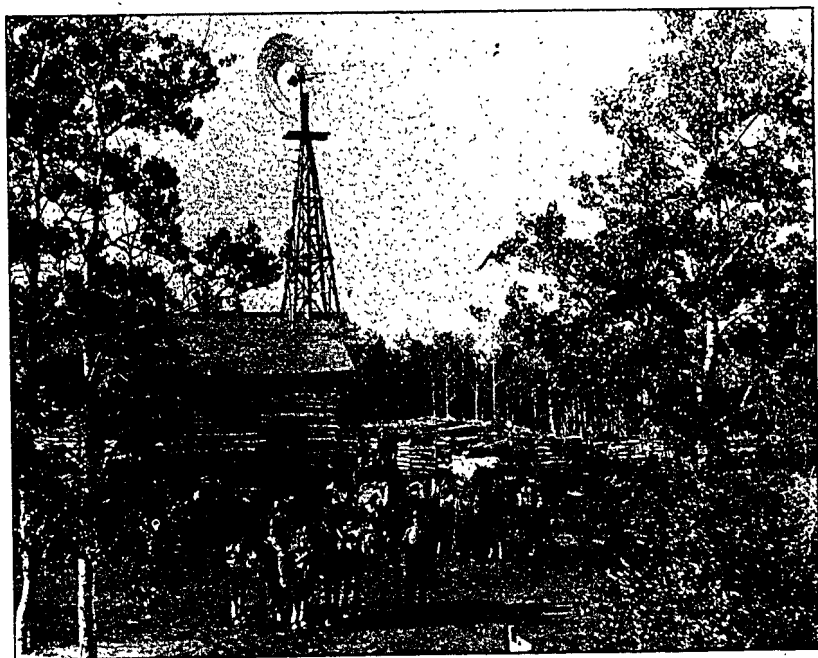
IN 1880 a few emigrants in search of a desirable location to settle in and make for themselves comfortable homes, came to Manitoba from the province of Ontario and on arriving in Winnipeg were attracted to this district by the favorable reports they received. They laid in a supply of provisions, got the necessary outfit and started for what was then known as the Shell River Country (in which was included this district) and after considerable difficulties, incidental to travelling in a wild and uncultivated country, eventually arrived in what is now known as the Silver Creek Settlement, and decided to settle here, being satisfied with the appearance of the land and the many advantages the district offered. They then located their different lands, and the following year made entry for same and commenced operations, building shanties, breaking land for crop, etc., etc. It was not, however, till 1882 and 1883 that the great rush of emigrants came into this district, and these consisted of settlers principally from Ontario, with a sprinkling from England and Scotland, and nearly all of these new-comers adopted mixed farming, and that they were wise in so doing is evident by the steady progress that has been made in this settlement, by the larger area of land brought under cultivation, and the larger herds of cattle and horses that are to be seen on the prairie in the summer season, and also the improvements that have been made in recent years in new and substantial dwellings, stables, barns, etc.

This portion of Russell County is specially adapted for mixed farming and dairying; pasture is excellent, hay is plentiful, and in addition to numerous sloughs throughout the district, abundance of good water is everywhere obtained by digging from 15 to 24 feet. The soil is good rich dark loam, with gravelly clay subsoil. An unlimited supply of timber is to be had within a few miles.

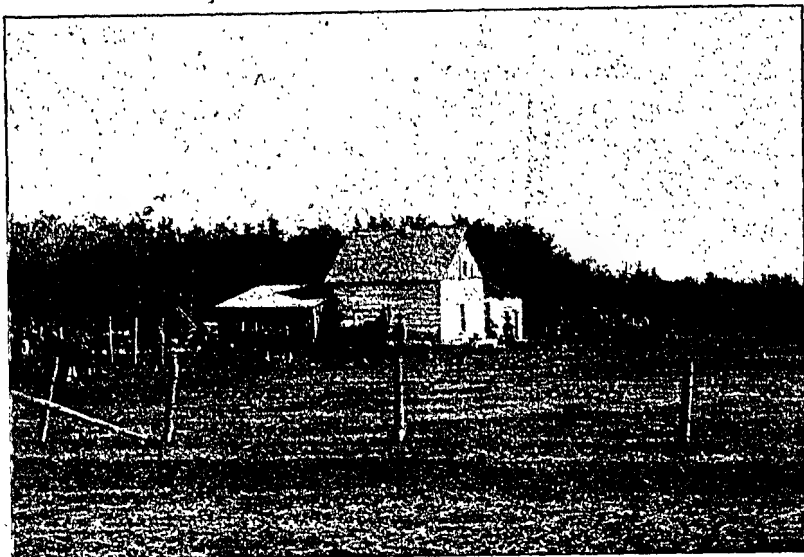
In the year 1884 the first Municipal Council was organized, and



WHEAT FIELD NEAR RUSSELL.



FARM BUILDINGS AND STOCK OF Y. J. ATTWOOD, NEAR RUSSELL.



RESIDENCE OF SAM'L RAE, NEAR RUSSELL.



RESIDENCE AND STOCK OF E. MOORE, NEAR RUSSELL.

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

amongst the first matters to receive attention were the roads. The result has been that now there are good roads leading from all parts of the settlement to the market towns of Russell and Binscarth.

The first school house was erected in 1884. There are now, throughout this settlement, seven large and commodious frame school houses, all of which are open the year round. There are three churches, two being Presbyterian and one Episcopalian, in which religious services are held. The Methodists have as yet no building of their own, and their services are held in the school houses.

The settlers of Silver Creek are, in the main, well satisfied with the country and the progress they have made, have unbounded confidence in the country as a whole, and their own district in particular.

Mention may be made of some of the farmers in this settlement, who from a small beginning have by industry and perseverance to-day attained a comfortable position.

Mr. George Neild, by birth a Canadian, came here from Ontario in 1882, and started with a very small capital. He is now possessed of a comfortable frame house, with good stabling, granary, etc., has 100 or thereabout acres under cultivation, 40 head of cattle, 8 or 10 horses and all necessary farming implements. The value of his property is in the neighborhood of \$5,000.

Mr. Archibald Brown, came from Scotland and settled here in 1883, with absolutely no capital. He now owns a large stock of horses and cattle, has 100 acres under cultivation. He recently erected a nice frame house, and has besides excellent out-buildings and farming machinery of various kinds. Mr. Brown's property can safely be estimated at from \$4,000 to \$4,500.

Mr. David Dunn, by birth an Irishman, settled in this district in 1882, and he also started operations with very small capital (about \$500.) At the present time Mr. Dunn owns some 800 acres of land, the large amount of 400 acres being under cultivation. He recently erected a fine stone dwelling house on his land, besides which he has a large frame barn with stabling underneath sufficient for 100 head of stock, and all farming machinery requisite. Mr. Dunn has also 150 head of cattle, 21 horses and 40 pigs. His property is valued at about \$10,000.

Shellmouth District.

THIS district is widely acknowledged to be excellent for mixed farming; throughout there is an abundance of water, lots of shelter, plenty of feed, and a variety of soils. To the incoming land-seeker it offers the additional attraction of land at a comparatively cheap figure and free grants.

This district has been occupied for seventeen years. At first

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

with the promise of a railroad the most of the land was taken up, but a good deal of it was abandoned when the line was deflected southward. Despite distance to railroad, ranging from 12 to 18 miles, farmers have prospered and succeeded as well as in any other parts.

Farms are somewhat sparsely distributed. On the uplands where soil is sand loam, more attention is paid to grain, with average yields and best quality. In the valley, farmers have more cattle, because of the abundant growth of wild hay on the bottom lands, where soil is clay loam. Anywhere cultivated grasses and green feed give good returns, so that a meadow lot is not essential. Dairying is each year becoming more popular, and consequently farmers will provide pasture and fodder within their boundaries, and be more ready to welcome neighbors. For many years the wish for scope and range has operated the other way.

The Assiniboine and Shell rivers, with their large tributaries, Thunder and Black Bird creeks, course in valleys from 100 to 150 feet deep, fringed with well wooded slopes. These break up the sameness that characterizes the prairie, making picturesque situations in summer time, and cozy sheltered nooks in winter. The pasture on these banks dries naturally in the autumn, so that horses and cattle graze at all times, save when snow is too deep, advantages which economize feed, in fall and spring.

The village of Shellmouth was at first planned for a town, but the deflecting of the line of railway, for a time, upset this project, and though recovery from the reaction has been slow, yet progress is substantial and prospects good. The best and easiest grade for a railroad across the Assiniboine valley is at this point and will undoubtedly be utilized in the near future. In addition to the usual school, church and post office, the village contains a good general store, smithy, cheese factory and a large creamery, which, just completed, will be operated this summer.

Farmers in this district are generally successful and there is no instance of a forced collection of debt; a creditable showing, because the earlier difficulties of settlement were most acute; capital and labor were not always invested profitably, everything was in the experimental stage, and some years were spent determining the advantages of different ventures, with varying success. As the community now stands, the following farmers can be instanced as being successful in somewhat differing lines of mixed farming.

Mr. John Borroughs, who came from Ontario in 1884, with a capital of \$150.00, and settled on the upland, two miles from Shellmouth, his main stay being wheat, has had an average crop of 18 bushels per acre for 10 years. He has also 30 head of cattle. In a period of 11 years he has sold 45 head at an average prize of \$28.00, add to this the returns from butter and eggs, and it is apparent he has succeeded in establishing himself comfortably and independantly. His farm



Hotel, Asessippi.



Gill & Co.'s Store, Asessippi.



STOCK SCENE. JAMES MITCHELL, CASTLEAVERY.



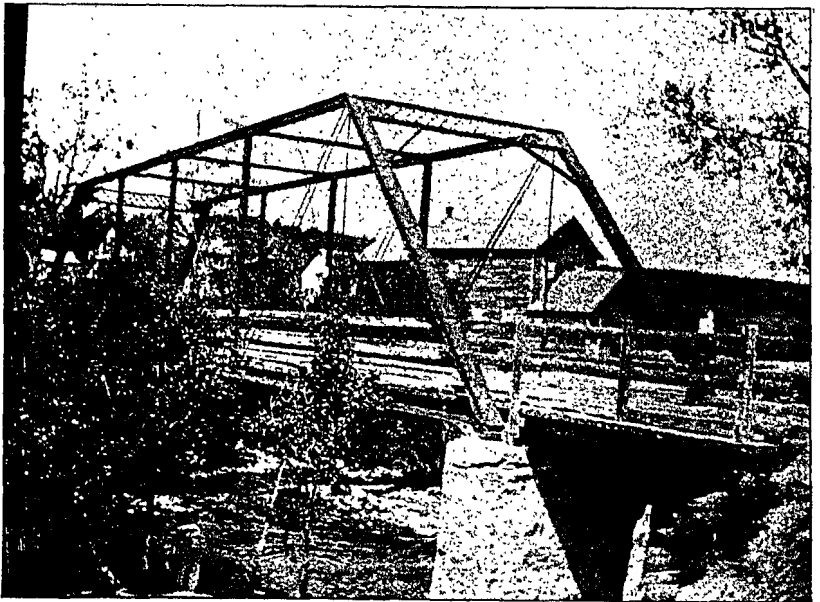
Millwood from the East.



T. G. Garrard's Store, Shellmouth.



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF A SESSIPPI.



A SESSIPPI BRIDGE.

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

comprising 320 acres of well tilled land and improvements thereon, is valued at \$7.00 per acre.

Mr. J. Peden, also from Ontario is an instance of successful dairying. He settled here in 1884 with a capital of \$2,000.00, all of which he did not invest to advantage. He is now owner of 640 acres of land, one-half being hay meadow, and has devoted his energies largely to the making of butter, shipping the most of it to British Columbia. He has a valuable herd of dairy cattle, 49 in number, and values his assets at \$7,000.00. Mr. Peden also cultivates and disposes of annually, large quantities of vegetables and small fruits to considerable advantage.

Mr. J. C. Langford, who can be instanced as a successful stockman and dealer, came from Dublin, Ireland, in 1880, with capital and no experience. Settling at first near Brandon, he exchanged the capital for experience, and came to this district in 1885. He is now established on a fine farm, one mile from Shellmouth, comprising 320 acres, and has gathered a herd of 35 cattle and a band of horses, which with his land easily entitles him to a valuation of \$2,500.00.

These examples demonstrate the possibilities of the district, and are by no means singular. There is still ample scope for 500 farmers to settle and repeat these experiences and secure like comfortable and independant positions. Capital can now-a-days purchase stock cheaper, and those settling here now, can be the gainers, by the advice and experience of those farmers who have spent from fifteen to eighteen years in this neighborhood.

Castleavery District.

THE name Castleavery was given to this district by the pioneer settler, the late Mr. Joseph Dugan, who, coming from the north of Ireland, called it after the name of his old home. The settlement was founded in 1882, in which year the most of the present settlers came in.

Mixed farming was at first in vogue but latterly most of the settlers have devoted themselves almost exclusively to stock raising, very little crop being now grown in the district.

As to the nature of the land and its physical features. The Assiniboine river may be called its eastern boundary. The magnificent valley with its inexhaustable hay meadows being the principle source of its wealth, and the primary cause of the abandonment of crop growing as a means of livelihood among its settlers. Then the western bank, mostly clear of timber, affords capital grazing ground, and as for the prairie, farther to the west, no better grazing can be found in the province. The soil of the prairie is of a sandy loam character with a good many stones as one approaches the brink of the river



RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

bank, but there is ample land further back from the river admirably adapted to crop growing.

About the middle of the district there are several lakes of fresh water where ducks, geese, etc., abound in their season and afford good sport and many a good dinner. The lakes also serve another purpose in so far that the stock can get water without having to travel to the river. The district is fairly wooded toward its north end, but the wood here, as elsewhere is rapidly disappearing. The general feature of the upland is rolling, with a few small bluffs and sloughs.

The stock raised consists mostly of cattle. Horses also form a large item. Mr. William Anderson has a considerable flock of sheep, which are handled with the skill that only a life-long experience can give. To give the names of some of the successful farmers in this district would be an easy task when all have done so well. If any have left the district after settling in it, a little examination would show that if there were any deficiencies, it was in them and not in the country. The cattle raised have a very high reputation, and deservedly so; the keenness of the buyers showing how much they value them.

Messrs. Dugan Brothers have upwards of 100 well bred grades, mostly raised from imported pedigreed sires, and also several thorough-bred cows of good quality. They also have a band of some 30 head of horses, mostly light and general purpose animals. The late Mr. Dugan and his enterprising family spared neither money nor trouble to improve their stock, having brought some of the best Ontario blood into the country, and have often been successful at the various local shows in beating some formidable opponents in the friendly rivalry that undoubtedly makes for the life, success and improvement of any district.

Mr. Robert Allbright also owns a large herd, and very often sweeps all before him in the grade classes at the shows. Mr. Allbright has spent the most of his life in the province, and certainly no man can excel him in his judgment and in the management of his stock.

Mr. Jas. Mitchell is another large stock-owner and importer, sometimes carrying off Winnipegs prizes, and also many at the local shows.

Messrs. Bennie Bro's. also hold largely and lately imported a car load of thoroughbreds from Ontario, to improve their stock.

Mr. John Birnie is another most successful settler and is spreading his wings for further flights.

Mr. William Anderson and his two sons, James and John, also show well since their arrival in the district. Nowhere can the effects of judgment and hard work give a more telling reply than in their case.

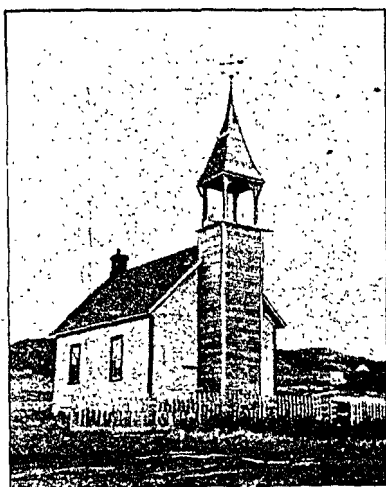
The Anderson Bro's. (in the Valley) hold one of the finest sec-



BIRDS-EYE VIEW OF BINSKARTH.



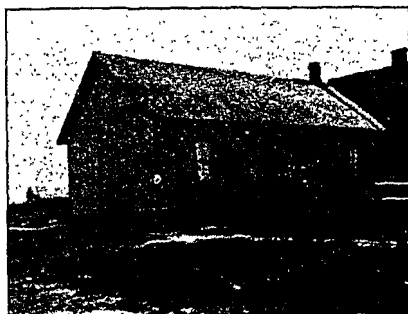
Smellie Bros. & Co.'s Store, Binscarth



St. John's Church, Millwood.



Presbyterian Manse, Binscarth,



Presbyterian Church, Binscarth,



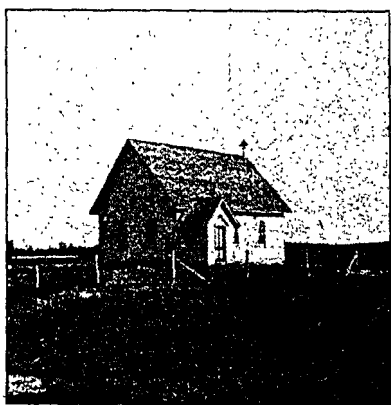
Residence of W. A. Wilson, near Binscarth Residence of T. Almack, Binscarth.



SCENE AT BINSARTH FARM.



Binscarth School.



English Church, Binscarth.

RUSSELL COUNTY, ILLUSTRATED.

tions of the meadow land, to which they have lately added by purchase, and besides a herd of about 120 head of cattle have a considerable band of horses for which they always find ready purchasers.

Mr. Duncan Stewart looks to quality and he is building up a stock that will be heard of in the future, and would take some beating even now. It is rumored he also contemplates going in for the raising of the heavier class of horses.

Mr. Alex Stewart, who is Reeve of Shell River Municipality, residing in Shellmouth, does his ranching by deputy, having let his place for some years, and it is understood intends continuing so to do, thereby making a good chance for someone with a knowledge of stock, but limited means.

The Robertson Bros. have a large and growing herd of prime beef animals.

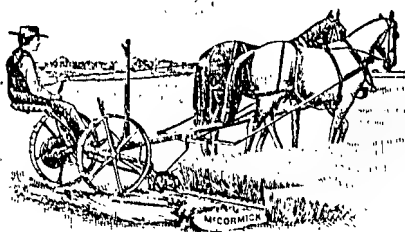
Mr. Lewis has an eye for the beautiful, as all may see who come across his small but choice lot which he evidently intends as the nucleus of something larger in the future.

The three Goodbun Bro's., creditably uphold the renown of the district. Utility is their motto, and if one should fail to see many aspirants to the prize ring, they can show as useful a lot of purse fillers as one would wish to see. They are only beginners, but have begun well, and in this country of "unlimited possibilities" it is hard to foretell the limits to which they might extend.

All the settlers in Castleavery—with one exception, Mr. R. Allbright—are old country-men all the four nationalities being represented, English, Irish, Welsh and Scotch, the latter predominating. The gentlemen are all comfortably and in some cases even sumptuously housed, and their various places have an air of comfort, with their good stabling and shelter sheds. Their position being in most cases on the side hill overlooking the valley, is highly picturesque.



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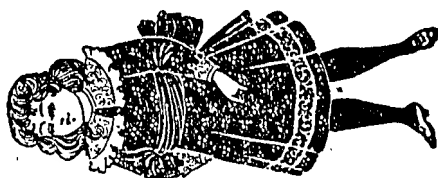
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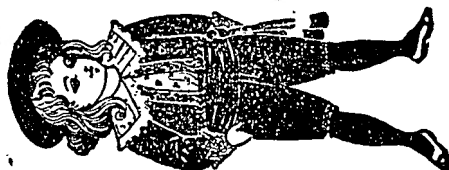


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25 YEARS AGO the chief products of Manitoba were the furs of wild animals. TO-DAY these products are Wheat, Cattle, Butter and Cheese.

IN 25 YEARS

The population increased from 12,000 to 200,000; the land under cultivation from 10,000 acres to 2,000,000 acres; the number of schools from 16 to 982.

EVEN IN A SINGLE DECADE

The results are no less remarkable, as may be seen from the following figures:

GRAIN PRODUCED.

	1885.	1895.
Wheat.....	7,429,440 bus.	31,776,038 bus.
Oats.....	6,364,263 bus.	22,555,733 bus.
Barley.....	1,113,481 bus.	5,645,036 bus.
Total.....	14,907,184 bus.	59,975,807 bus.
Increase in 10 years, 45,068,623 Bushels.		

The area of Wheat, Oats and Barley under crop was:

In 1885.....	566,228 acres.
In 1895.....	1,722,773 acres.
Increase, 1,156,545 acres.	

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